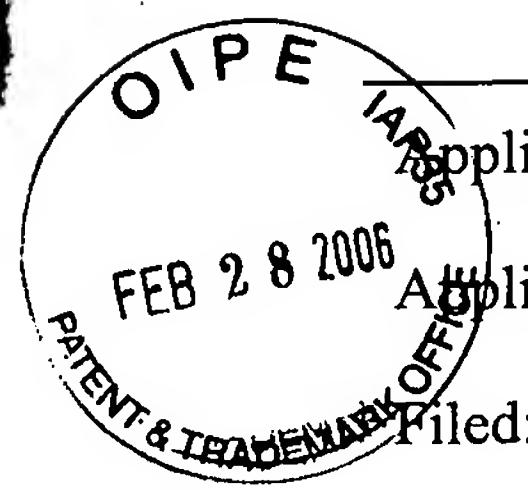


JRW

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant: Michael Slivka et al.  
Application No.: 10/709,795  
Filed: May 28, 2004  
Entitled: ANCHORING SYSTEM AND METHOD  
FOR CORRECTING SPINAL  
DEFORMITIES  
Docket No.: 101896-252 (DEP5319)

Group Art Unit: 3733

Examiner: Richard R. Shaffer

Certificate of Mailing (37 C.F.R. 1.8(a))

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Services as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

February 23, 2006

By: 

Date of Signature and Mail Deposit

Lisa Adams, Reg. No: 44,238  
Attorney for Applicant(s)

MS Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this paper in response to the Office Action dated December 1, 2005.

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 9 of this paper and include attached replacement sheets.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including replacement drawing figures is attached following page 12 of this paper.